



University
Health

**THINKING
BEYOND**



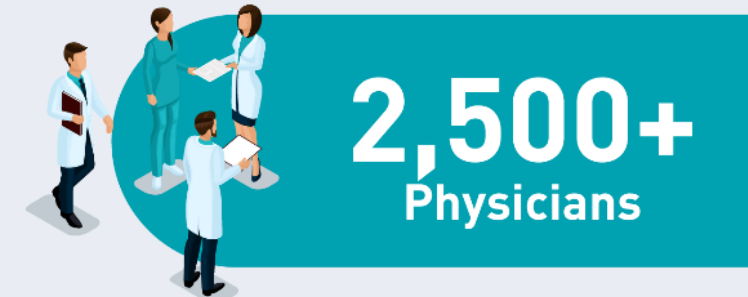
Texas House County Affairs Committee

March 11, 2021

George B Hernandez, Jr.
President/CEO
University Health

WHO WE ARE...

COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK



A tradition of leadership. Driven by values

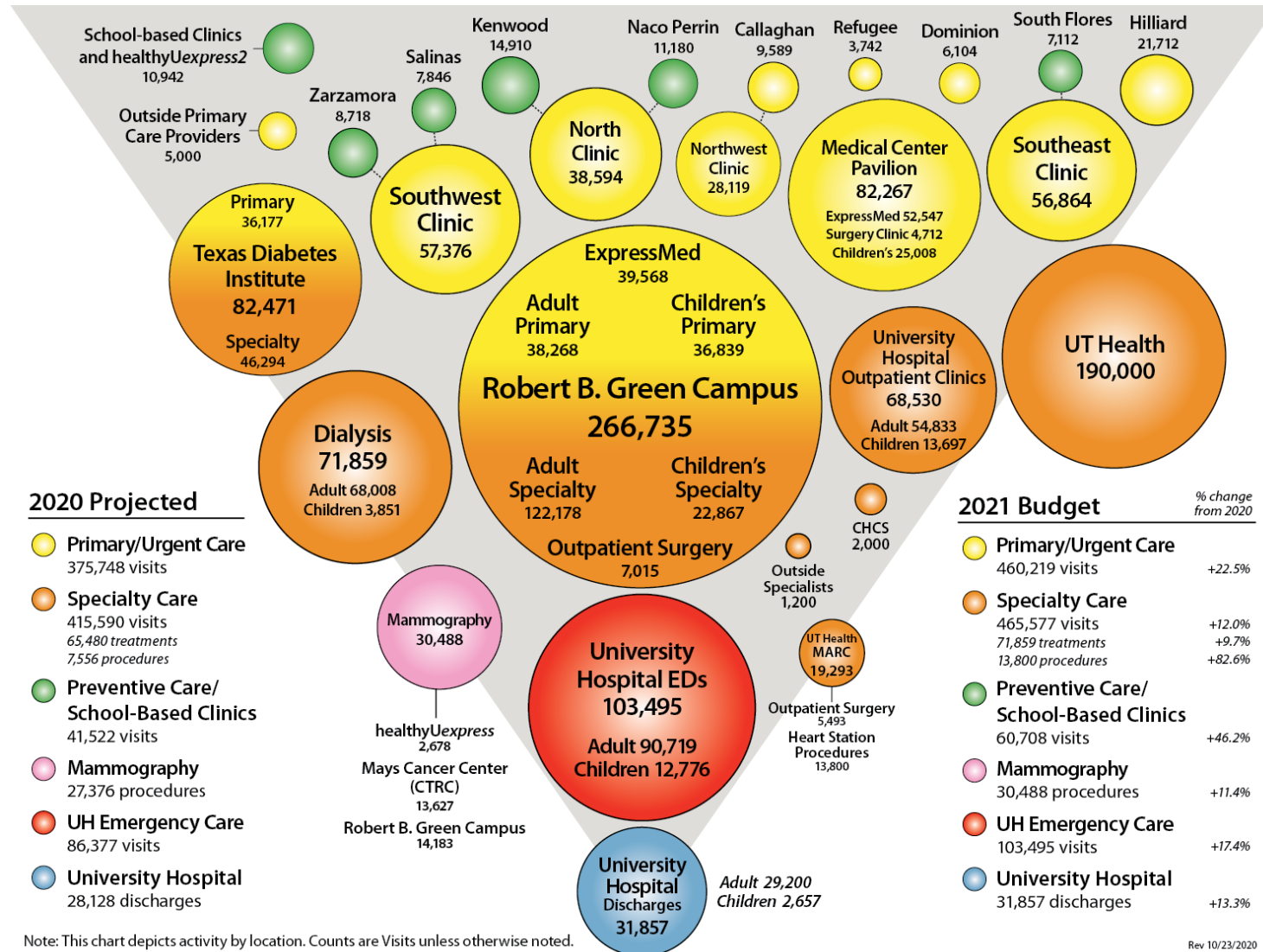
- Robert B. Green Memorial hospital -1917
- Bexar County Hospital District - 1955
- Affiliation with UT Health San Antonio - 1968
- South Texas' first Nurse Magnet health system - since 2010



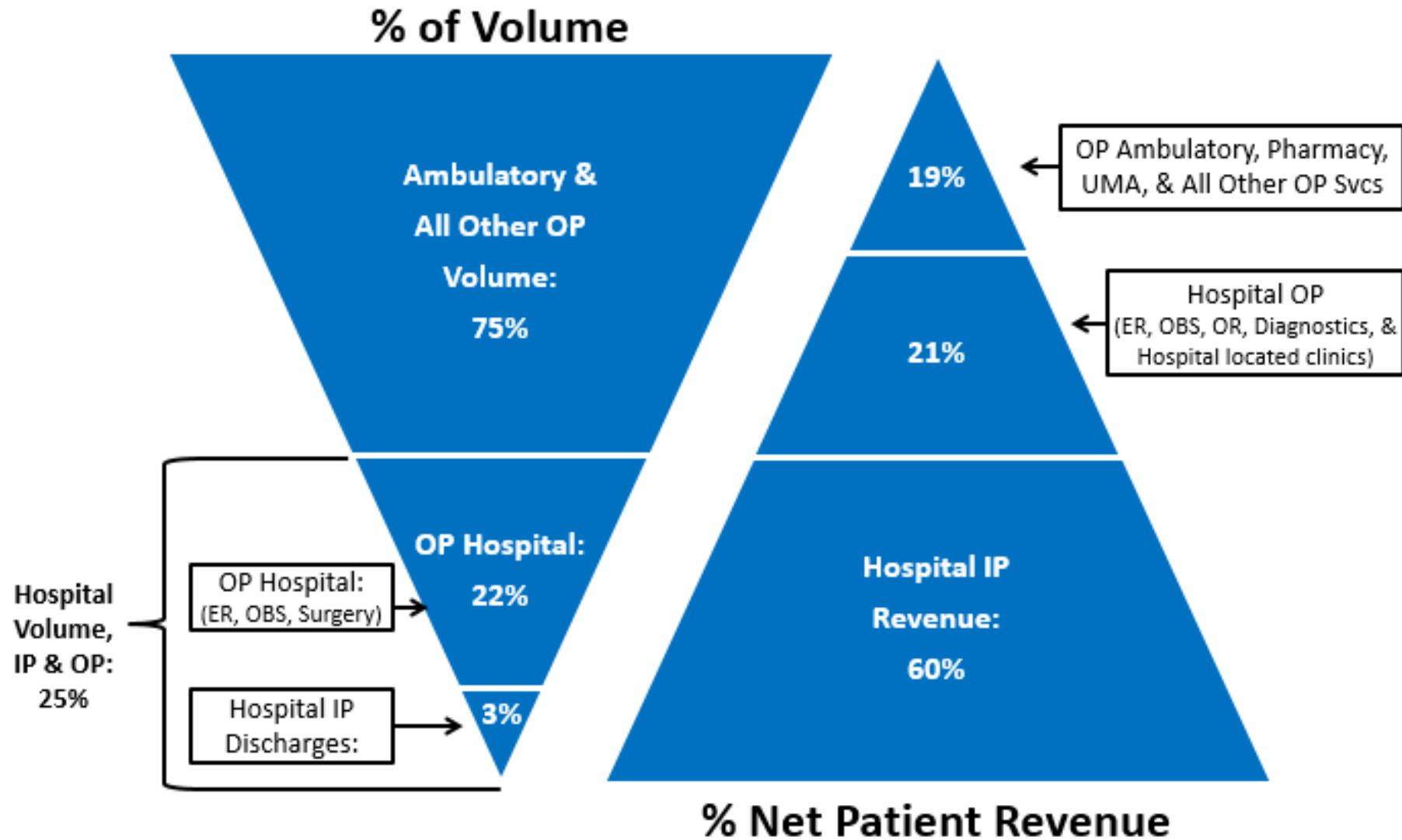
Our patient care will be:

- High quality and compassionate above all,
- Attentive, kind and helpful without exception, and
- Wise in the use of resources.

More than a Hospital



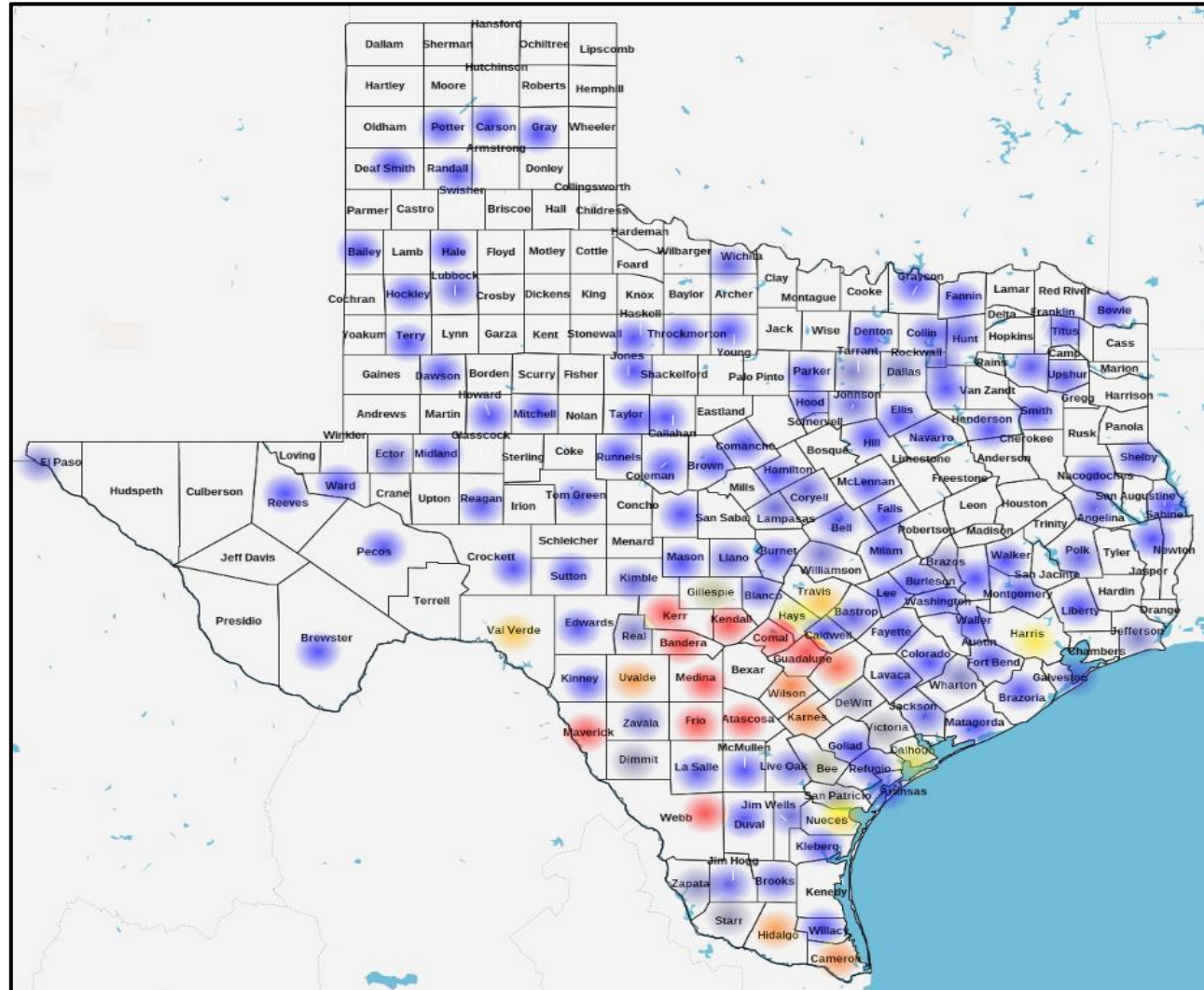
But..... the Hospital is the Economic Engine



Burden of Out-of-County Uninsured

By County Map

\$29.6M in Uncompensated Costs for 2018



Dealing with COVID-19 Stress

Looking for Danger Signs

- Proning has become standard of care for patients with lungs damaged by COVID-19. Laying a patient on their stomach limits the opportunity to see and know them.
- Teams round on room after room, with patients laying on their stomachs. They begin to all look alike.
- “I’m hearing more and more how people are struggling with this and am worried about all as this unfolds and folks get tired.” *Jennifer LaCoss, MD, Medical Director, Palliative Care*
- Dehumanization is followed by demoralization of the care teams.

Valuing the Caregivers

- Increased health worker counseling services
- Opened “Recharge Rooms” on each unit for staff to decompress
- Employed *locum tenens* and traveling nurses to give staff time off
- Assured salary support for staff sent home



Paying it Forward during COVID

My Story
Please call me: **JOE**

DALLAS STARS
TEXAS RANGERS
COWBOYS
University Health System

Significant people in my life:
Message to read to my brother:
I know this has been an incredibly difficult time for you but please know that we are all here praying for you and keeping you in our daily prayers. We hope you find the strength to keep fighting and keep going. You have the best team of doctors and nurses caring for you and have done an amazing job thus far. They have also been great in keeping us very well informed with daily updates. We are looking forward to you recovering so we can have a cookout with all your favorite food items. Oh and by the way, it's almost football time so hurry up and get better so we can watch the Dallas Cowboys make their way to the Super Bowl! We love you brother and hope to hear from you and see you soon!

My current occupation/career:
Occupation: remodeling/construction

Music and TV shows I enjoy:
Music: Oldies, Rap/HipHop

Hobbies/interests/accomplishments:
Hobbies/Interests: loves the Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Mavericks, Texas Rangers, Dallas Stars He enjoys attending the Dallas Cowboys home games and tailgating

MD/RN free text:

Photos of me and my family:

5117

Paying it Forward during COVID2.0

Please call me:

Nur Ullah



The people that know me best and what they say:

Very loving and humble person, likes to help people around him who need a hand, loves kids

These are things that I love to do:

Fishing, cooking for my family

These are things I have done in my life:

Helped my daughter take care of my granddaughter financially and by being a father figure for her

These are the things I am most proud of:

Being a dad and a grandad
spoiling my daughter and granddaughter

What matters most to me:

My family



[A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words: Using Storyboards to Humanize the COVID-19 ICU Experience - American College of Chest Physicians \(chestnet.org\)](https://www.chestnet.org)



Responding to COVID-19

- Developed more than 35 videos as well as hundreds of news and social media stories to be a trusted source of information. E.g., **#WhyIWearAMaskSA** campaign.
- Stood up a smartphone app with real-time updates on COVID-19 information.
- Deployed staff to conduct screenings and COVID-19 testing of all persons at Bexar County detention facilities. To date more than 12,500 COVID-19 PCR tests have been administered.
- Held multiple blood drives to ensure adequate supplies during the lock-down. Conducted 5 flu vaccine drives to reduce flu spread.
- Accelerated telemedicine and telephonic visits.
Over 150,000 conducted in the last 12 months



Pivoting to Vaccinations

- Leading in vaccine administration
- Partnering with others fill gaps
- Over 175,000 doses administered





Legislative Policy Considerations

- Behavioral health access must be a priority for Texas to address the increased stress of COVID, job insecurity and school closures.
- Because of COVID, interest in health carriers is high...Fund innovation and strategies to grow the next generation of health professionals.
- Each community is different but the ability to pivot and respond to a public health emergency must be robust. Existing public health structures and paradigms need to be re-evaluated and resourced to address pandemics.
- Telemedicine is here to stay. We need to address broadband access to all sectors of the community. Lack of access to broadband magnifies health care inequities.
- It's time to design a Medicaid option for needy Texans.